

IS-US040596

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :  
:   
Kazuya SUGIMURA et al. :  
:   
Serial No.: National Entry of PCT JP2004/009002 :  
:   
Filed: Herewith :  
June 25, 2004 (International Filing Date) :  
:   
For: SEASONING PROCESSING SYSTEM :

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the subject application as follows.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 8 of this paper. Claims 1-16 are pending, with claims 1 and 9 being the only independent claims.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 13 of this paper.